

Appl. No. 10/597,780
Amendment Dated April 28, 2009
Reply to Office Action of February 12, 2009

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). Fluid reservoir for a paint spray gun with a receptacle (1) and a lid (2) that can be placed thereon, which has a connecting element (3) in order to place the fluid reservoir on the paint spray gun or an adapter, wherein receptacle (1) has a ventilation part (4) that can be closed by means of a valve, characterized in that the valve comprises a valve housing (10) arranged on the ~~container~~ receptacle and a corresponding closure element (5), and has two valve seats arranged one behind the other in the direction of flow, wherein closure element (5) can be displaced relative to valve housing (10) between a first valve position, in which ventilation part (4) is closed off, and a second valve position, in which an equalization of pressure between the interior of receptacle (1) and the environment is made possible, and can be fixed in the first valve position and in the second valve position on valve housing (10) via a snap fit or gripping element.

Claim 2 (Original). Fluid reservoir according to Claim 1, characterized in that each valve seat has a sealing surface (6; 7), wherein these sealing surfaces (6; 7) are separated from one another.

Claim 3 (Original). Fluid reservoir according to Claim 1, characterized in that the valve housing is formed from a hollow cylindrical projection (10) that is arranged on the wall, in particular, on receptacle bottom (23), and surrounds ventilation part (4).

Claim 4 (Original). Fluid reservoir according to Claim 2, characterized in that sealing surface (6) of the first valve seat is formed by wall (8) forming the ventilation part, and in that sealing surface (7) of the second valve seat is formed by outer wall (9) of projection (10).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). Fluid reservoir according to Claim 2, characterized in that closure element (5) can be snapped into place on projection (10) via catch elements (15, 16, 17).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented). Fluid reservoir according to Claim 1, characterized in that closure element (5) is formed from a hollow cylindrical base body (11) with a plug (12) which projects into the interior of base body (11) and onto the end of which a stopper (13) for closing off ventilation part (4) is formed.

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Claim 7 (Previously Presented). Fluid reservoir according to Claim 5, characterized in that, with closure element (5) inserted, stopper (13) engages with ventilation part (4) in the first valve position and rests against wall (8) of ventilation part (4) to form first sealing surface (6), and simultaneously, inner surface (14) of base body (11) rests against outer wall (9) of projection (10) to form second sealing surface (7).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented). Fluid reservoir according to Claim 5, characterized in that stopper (13) and ventilation part (4) are each formed conically.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented). Fluid reservoir according to Claim 5, characterized in that catch elements (15, 16, 17) that correspond to one another are formed on inner side (14) of base body (11) as well as on outer wall (9) of projection (10), respectively, in order to fix closure element (5) in one of the two valve positions.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented). Fluid reservoir according to Claim 2, characterized in that at least one, preferably a plurality, of depressions (18) or openings, each of which provides an air passage from the interior of receptacle (1) to the outside with closure element (5) inserted in the second valve position, are formed in outer wall (9) of projection (10).

Claims 11-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented). Fluid reservoir according to Claim 1, characterized in that an outlet opening (19) is formed in connecting element (3) of lid (2), and in that closure element (5) is formed such that is also suitable for closing off this outlet opening (19).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented). Fluid reservoir according to Claim 1, characterized in that closure element (5) is first formed on lid (2) via a predetermined breaking point constructed as a pull off tab (25) and can be torn off for closing ventilation part (4) or outlet opening (19).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented). Fluid reservoir according to Claim 2, characterized in that closure element (5) is seated on the valve housing such that it grips it.

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Claim 16 (New). A fluid reservoir for a paint spray gun, comprising:

a receptacle;

a lid being placeable on said receptacle;

a connecting element being disposed on said lid for fluidly connecting said receptacle to a paint spray gun or an adapter;

a ventilation part disposed on said receptacle;

a valve for selectively closing said ventilation part and having a first valve position and a second valve position, said valve closing said ventilation part when in the first valve position and said valve opening said ventilation part to equalize pressure between an inside of said receptacle and an exterior environment surrounding said receptacle when in the second valve position, said valve including:

a valve housing disposed on said receptacle;

a closure element having two valve seats configured in series in a direction of flow through the valve, said closure element being displaceable relative to said valve to move from the first valve position to the second valve position;

one of said valve housing and said closure element having a rib formed thereon and the other of said valve housing and said closure element having two grooves formed thereon for receiving said rib, said valve being in the first position when said rib is engaged with a first of said two grooves and said valve being in the second position when said rib is engaged with a second of said two grooves.

Claim 17 (New). A valve for selectively closing and opening a ventilation part formed on a receptacle that engages a lid with a connecting element for a spray gun or an adapter, the valve comprising:

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a valve housing to be disposed on said receptacle and fluidly connected to the ventilation part;

a closure element having two valve seats configured in series in a direction of flow through the valve, said closure element being displaceable relative to said valve to move from the first valve position to the second valve position; and

one of said valve housing and said closure element having a rib formed thereon and the other of said valve housing and said closure element having two grooves formed thereon for receiving said rib, said valve being in a first position when said rib is engaged with a first of said two grooves and said valve being in a second position when said rib is engaged with a second of said two grooves;

said closure element closing the ventilation part when in the first valve position and said valve opening the ventilation part to equalize pressure between an inside of the receptacle and an exterior environment surrounding the receptacle when in second valve position.